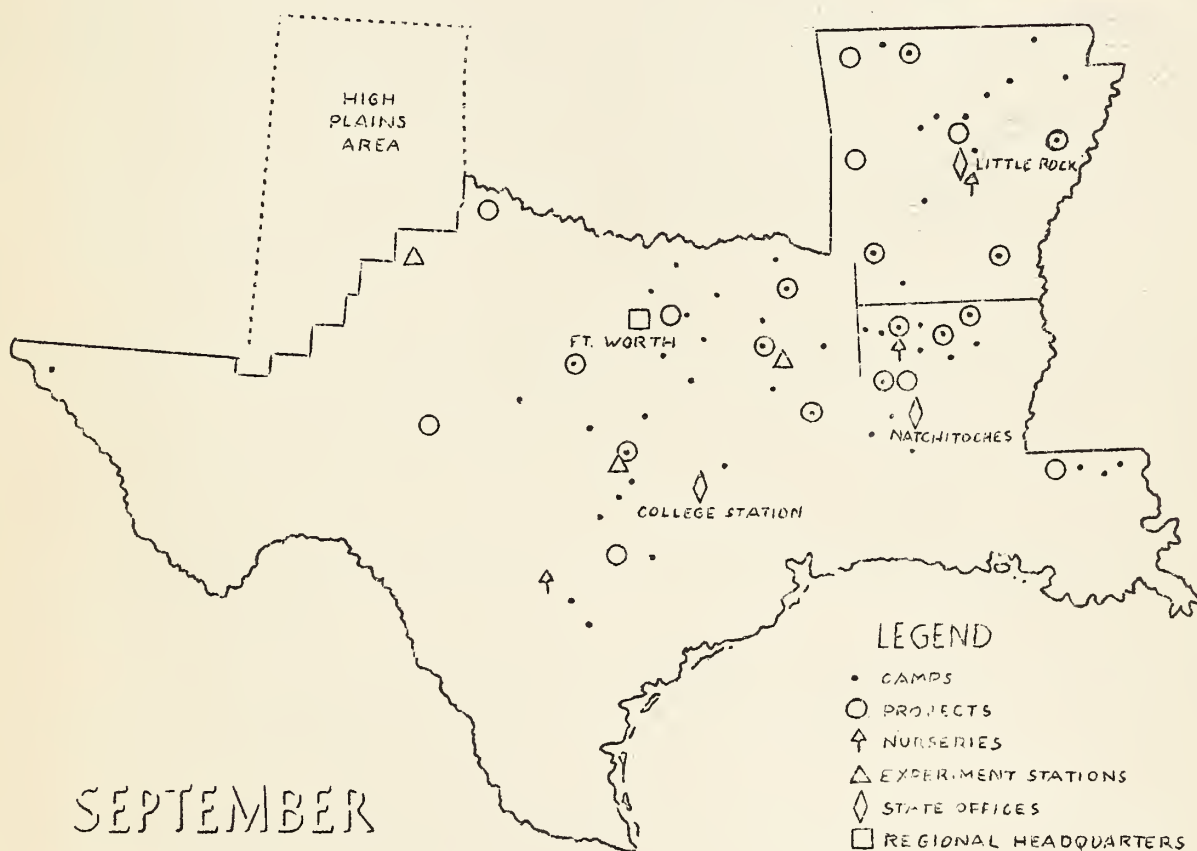
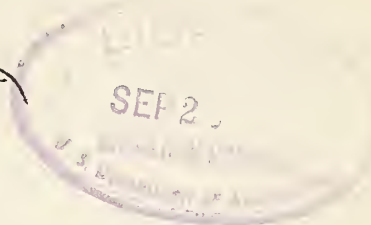


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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

NEWS



REGION 4
COMPRISING STATES OF LOUISIANA,
ARKANSAS, AND TEXAS EXCEPT
HIGH PLAINS AREA

A SAFETY KINK

By

G. B. Cooke
Regional Safety Engineer

The CCC Camp SCS-T-38, Floresville, Texas, is using a plan which we believe will have the effect of causing the loaders, assistant loaders, and truck drivers to become more safety conscious and more alert in discovering and reporting unsafe practices, conditions, and happenings that are likely to cause accidents. These men furnish Mr. Guss A. Lohmann, Technician in Charge, with a list of the unsafe practices and conditions which they observe and which could have caused accidents. This information is given at a meeting of the technical staff, the foreman and the company commander. These unsafe practices and conditions are discussed fully and in each case a solution is suggested and necessary steps immediately taken for preventive measures. We have copied from the minutes of the meeting the following unsafe practices and conditions which were reported with their solution and the steps taken for preventive action, with the hope that this information will be helpful to other camps in their accident prevention program.

1. When driving through a brushy pasture in a pickup the person occupying the seat beside the driver was riding with one leg sticking out through the window of the pickup, presumably to keep cool. This could have caused a serious accident had a limb caught the person's leg.

Solution - Ride with feet and legs inside.

2. When working on spare tire of dump truck, lever which controls the bed of the truck could be released if accidentally touched, thereby causing a serious accident.

Solution - Camp mechanic was delegated to investigate and devise some sort of bar or device to prevent the bed from lowering in the event the lever was accidentally touched and the bed released.

3. Truck driver started his truck before all men were off which could have caused an accident. (Army truck driver)

Solution - Company Commander will instruct and discipline his truck drivers for this offense.

4. When sodding a pasture a truck loaded with sod was going through a small gully and had speeded up in order to be able to get through -- an empty truck returning to get another load of sod ran in front of the loaded truck.

Solution - The truck driver with the load of sod stopped. It was generally agreed that the empty truck should have stopped and given the loaded truck the right of way. The offending truck driver was reprimanded and instructed to be more courteous to his fellow workers.

5. While driving an empty truck to secure sod, a tree leaning across the road caught the end gate of the truck.

Solution - Foreman and loaders and assistant loaders were instructed to clear the roadways and truck trails of all hanging limbs before sending trucks over these roads for sod.

6. Picks on rack in tool room were so placed that the sharp ends were pointing to the outside. This could cause accident an accident should anyone fall against these picks.

Solution - Place guard of 1" x 4" board around pick rack.

7. In the process of mapping a farm, the rear chainman tied the chain to his wrist with a small leather string. While he stopped for a few minutes, the rear chainman rested his hand on a barb wire fence. The head chainman not noticing this, pulling the chain without warning, jerking the rear chainman's hand across the barb wire. No injury was caused, but it could have been a serious one.

Solution - Chainmen were instructed not to tie the chain to their wrists, and the head chainman should always give signal when starting after a stop.

8. Enrollee was noticed riding with his leg between the truck seat and the side gate of truck. This could crush his leg in case of a hard impact against the bed of the truck.

Solution - By inspection of truck seats, it was decided to place a 1" x 4" board along edge of truck seats, thus preventing the enrollees from putting their feet between the benches and the side gate of the truck.

OWN PAYING WOODLOT

Plan to:

1. Keep stock out of the woods.
2. Confine annual cutting to a definite area of the woods.
3. Make no large openings in the woodlot.
4. Favor the thriftiest, best-formed crop trees.
5. Remove some larger crop trees where crowding exist.
6. Cut inferior trees for wood.
7. Do these things and you will improve your woodland while also controlling erosion.

-- Project Ark-1,
Conway, Arkansas

COOPERATOR LIKES STRIP CROPPING AND CONTOUR TILLAGE

Strip cropping in connection with contour tillage is proving to be a very necessary part of the Soil Conservation Service's program according to Mr. Carl H. Latta, cooperator with the Service at Camp Jacksonville.

"I want to build up my land," stated Mr. Latta, "and by alternating my soil building strips and planting a portion of my other land to soybeans or cowpeas, I can improve my land to where I won't have to put so much of it to row crops. I turned under rye and vetch almost shoulder high and I know that the portion to strips will hold moisture better. I had a small wash started across the rows between the strips and it was suggested that I plant some oats there. I did and the oats caught enough silt to heal and level the wash. I also find that rows on the contour are of very little more trouble to cultivate.

I first noticed strip cropping on my brother's farm, Robert A. Latta, and liked it very much. I can say that I still like the practice after I have tried it out on my farm."

Mr. Latta was harvesting some hay from his Sudan grass and cowpea strips when the writer visited him. He realized he must have feed for his dairy cattle and work stock and by planting a portion of his land to strips, he can help to control erosion at the same time.

-- Project Ark-1,
Conway, Arkansas

HARVESTING LESPEDEZA SEED

For the average farmer a seed pan of galvanized iron riveted on to a strap iron frame with a hinged top punched into 1/8" holes spaced 1/2" apart will give satisfactory service. This pan should be the length of the mower blade and two feet, nine inches in width. The pan is six inches deep in the back and slopes toward the front where it is belted into the mower through the guard bolts. One man follows the mower and rakes the hay back over the pan, thoroughly agitating the hay so as to knock out the seed. When the pan is nearly full, the top is raised and the seed sacked, after which they may be recleaned.

Lespedeza seed may also be saved by running the hay through an ordinary thrashing machine with the proper screens. Combines may be used on well matured hay and thrashed directly from the swath. In all methods the seed should be well ripened.

-- Project Ark-2,
Forrest City, Arkansas.

MATCH OUT FOR FOREST FIRES

Because of the continued dry weather, we are now facing a serious fire season.

Solicit the help of every cooperator in the Project and Camp areas in preventing fires and reporting any fires to the Project or Camp offices at once, so that as much damage as possible can be prevented.

-- Project Ark-3,
Harrison, Arkansas

START PLANNING WINTER WOODLAND PROGRAM NOW

Over 850 acres of Black Locust and pine seedlings have been planted in Lincoln Parish in the past three years by the Soil Conservation Service and the Ruston CCC Camp. During the next two years, the Service plans to bring this total up to 2,000 acres or more. The aim of this organization is to retire every acre in Lincoln Parish that is not suitable for cultivation to timber for profit as well as erosion control. Woodland ranks high in erosion control and one of the best trees for this purpose is Black Locust.

Black Locust has a strong spreading root system which makes it of much value in checking erosion. It is a legume which in part accounts for its power of growth in poor soil and makes it actually a soil enricher.

Fence posts are scarce in this area and the planting of Black Locust on cooperating farms would assure the farmer of a future supply of durable fence posts, stakes and poles. Under good conditions, these trees will yield fence posts in 10 to 20 years. The durability of these posts have been proven. A number of Black Locust posts have been observed on the M. E. Terrell pasture that have been in the ground over 20 years and are still in good shape.

Cultivation of Black Locust at least during the first year, has much to do with its growth. The pruning of side branches and cutting away of dead or decaying limbs will also assist in the formation of better post timber.

-- Project La-6,
Ruston, Louisiana.

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN PLANTING AUSTRIAN WINTER PEAS AND VETCH

1. Where phosphorus and potash are deficient in the soil the use of 200 lbs. phosphoric acid and 25 lbs. Muriate of Potash is recommended at the time of planting.
2. Inoculate seed thoroughly before planting, always using the best inoculant obtainable, and making sure it is fresh.

3. To inoculate, place seed in zinc tub or other tight container, treating not more than 50 lbs. of seed at a time. Pour 1/2 of the contents of can of culture in small bucket containing 1/2 pint of water in which a teaspoonful of sugar has been dissolved. Stir contents of bucket well until mixture of water and culture is about the consistency of thick cream; then pour into seed and stir (with hands) until every seed is moist and covered with particles of culture. Plant as soon as seed are dry enough to drill. Keep seed in a cool shady place and cover with heavy sacks or cloth.

4. Plant seed 2 to 3 inches deep. May be covered to a depth of 5 inches.

5. A simple method of planting peas or vetch in cotton land is to run cultivator with swoops or turning plow along cotton rows as near the stalks as possible, knocking row down instead of throwing dirt to row. Then sow seed among roots of old stalks, running out old middles as deeply as possible, lapping dirt around old stalks, making a high oval bed, allowing plenty of drainage in middles.

6. Plant 25 to 30 lbs. of peas and from 20 to 25 lbs. of vetch per acre.

7. Don't plant if grazing in any form is necessary.

8. Allow growth of from 12 to 18 inches before turning under.

9. Don't plant a crop following peas or vetch for 15 days or more after turning under green crop.

10. Where these crops are planted around October 1st, they should make sufficient growth for cotton by April 1st and allow the planting of cotton by April 20th.

-- Project Ia-3,
Clinton, Louisiana.

A COOPERATOR WRITES

Dear Sir:

I have complied with the SCS program in which terraces were built, strip crops and cover crops were planted, and I think they are fine. My winter cover crop has increased my corn yield 30%.

I have retired some steep badly worn land to pasture and find it more profitable in pasture than in cultivated crops.

Yours truly,

Signed W. H. Goings

-- Project Ia-3,
Clinton, Louisiana.

COVER CROPS AND LAND USE ON MY FARM

By

John R. Martin,
Cooperator

If you want a fall pasture plant oats, or if you want to build up your land plant vetch. I have watched it close this year. Some farmers pastured vetch last fall and winter and will not get much out of it for fertilizer. Where you graze vetch you lose from 80 to 90 percent of your plant food and there is nothing to go back into the land. Don't make this mistake but plant your vetch in a field to itself and keep stock off. Plow under about April 15th and let lay 10 days and then plant your crop and watch it grow.

I planted 30 acres in vetch last year and kept stock off all fall and winter. You can now drive by this field in a car running 50 miles per hour and tell to a row where the vetch was planted.

My strip crop was good this year, I have cut and shocked 24 big shocks of pea vetch hay and will pick about 50 bushels of peas on what is left.

My pastures are fine, I have every thing needed except a meadow and I think we will get together this fall and make a meadow. Every farm ought to have one.

I am a renter and I do all I can to build up the soil so I don't see why, where a man owns his land, he doesn't plant vetch and build up his soil. I am going to plant every row in vetch I can this fall.

My whole place has been terraced. If this had not been done, I would not have had any land to work in five years time. It would all have been washed away. I plow my terraces in the fall and in the spring. The terrace outlets are all under perfect control. All but one is fenced for grazing. This affords good grazing for my stock.

By cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and carrying out the soil conservation and land utilization program, I have gotten better results and my farm is in better condition to work.

-- Project Leader,
Minden, Louisiana

OUTLET CHANNEL MAINTENANCE IS IMPORTANT

All sodded channels on cooperating farms have now been in place for a period sufficient to insure the knitting together of the sod in such a fashion that it is almost impossible for normal rains to cause any appreciable water scour to take place. Erosion trouble at the terrace outlet is eliminated now- but for how long? The answer now lies in the silting danger that every channel is exposed to. Every drop of runoff water contains some silt. Every tall blade of grass forms a baffle behind which silt may be deposited. Every weed is fighting a battle to crowd out the protecting and desirable

grasses. What are your cooperators going to do to lengthen the life of your outlet channels?

-- Project Tox-7,
Nacogdoches, Texas.

IMPRESS COOPERATORS WITH IMPORTANCE OF MAKING

TERRACE FILLS

The importance of completing terrace fills immediately following the construction of a terrace cannot be over-stressed. Should a rain occur on a field which has been terraced and the fills not completed, considerable damage will result. In many instances, gullies have formed at these low places in the terraces, causing an enormous loss of soil, as well as a large increase in the amount of labor necessary to make the fills.

In making fills, the work should begin on the top terrace and all fills completed on that terrace before moving to the next one below. A fill when properly made will be from six inches to one foot higher than the normal terrace, depending on the amount of fill to be made and will be broader than any other part of the terrace.

We have often heard the expression that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and it follows that a terrace is no larger than its smallest fill.

-- Project Tox-4,
Lockhart, Texas.

SEASONAL SOIL CONSERVATION FARM JOBS

1. Get out line posts, corner posts, braces, and get wire to be needed for fence construction and relocation.
2. Build terraces.
3. Make terrace fills.
4. Excavate terrace outlets.
5. Cut woods in pastures.
6. Cut woods in outlet channels to prevent reseeding and silting.
7. Save seed for winter strip and cover crops.
8. Flat break and harrow land to be seeded to meadow grasses.

-- Project Tox-4,
Lockhart, Texas.

COMPLETENESS OF CONSERVATION

Do visitors know the whole story. With a group of 149 landowners and Vocational agriculture students, as the group from Coleman and McCullough counties that visited the Upper Concho River project on September 1st, we are sure that many did not get the complete story of conservation.

The last pasture the group visited looked good, and according to the livestock kept on the place, there is a carrying capacity of one animal unit to less than five acres of grassland. However, a 58-acre small grain field furnished supplementary grazing, later to be harvested.

A 30-acre Sudan field also furnished supplementary grazing, and 600 bales of hay harvested from it. All cacti had been removed from the entire pasture. Some of the brush that had no browse value had been removed.

A definite system of grazing is being followed. A balance between cattle and sheep is conducive to maintaining and consuming the vegetation equally.

Then the contour ridges hold all the water and aided by all those things listed will establish and maintain grass cover necessary in a complete conservation program for grassland on this stock farm.

Vocational agriculture teachers, county agriculture agents, cooperators in the program, business groups by making repeated visits to the conservation project are sources through which a more thorough understanding of a complete conservation program can be had.

Let's give these visiting groups the full story when they visit projects and camps.

-- Project Tex-6,
San Angelo, Texas.

IMPRESS COOPERATORS WITH THE "WHY" OF STRIP CROPPING

Strip cropping helps to control erosion and conserves water by:

1. Slowing down the rapid flow of water.
2. Spreading the flow of water, preventing concentration.
3. Causing more water to be absorbed into the ground.
4. Causing deposits of soil being carried by water.

Strip cropping has numerous other advantages besides its control of erosion. Some of these are the use of strips for feed, point rows may be taken up, serve to balance production of feed, food and other crops, low cost of installation, maintenance cost low if any necessary, fill up small washes and depressions, eliminate cost of outlet protection and may easily be moved or changed to fit needs.

-- Project Tex-8,
Dublin, Texas.

THE RIVER

1. Water.

From as far West as Idaho and as far East as Pennsylvania, 4500 miles from Canada, the river flows to the Gulf . . . Water from the glaciers of the Rockies, and from the turkey ridges of the Alleghonies: water from two-thirds of all the rivulets, creeks, streams and rivers of the nation - THE MISSISSIPPI.

Down to St. Louis: down the Milk, the Cannonball, the Sioux and Cheyenne; Down the Chippewa, Rock, Wisconsin and St. Croix, the Republican, the Platte and the Niobrara.

Down from Pittsburgh, a thousand miles to Cairo;

The Monongahela, the Allegheny and the Kanawha;

Down the Wabash, the Hocking and the Muskingum -

The Kentucky, the Cumberland and the Tennessee;

Down the Ohio a thousand miles to Cairo.

Down the Wolf, the White and the St. Francis;

The Yazoo, the Old Red and the Big Black;

Down the Ouachita and the Arkansas, a thousand miles to New Orleans.

2. Progress.

They got the blacks to plant the cotton and they gouged the top off Tennessee and Alabama, and sent it down the river.

They got the Swedes to cut the forests, and they cut the top off Wisconsin and Minnesota, and sent it down the river.

Then they dyked the river off its plain and moved their plows South; And they left a hollow-eyed generation to peck at the worn-out cotton land;

And left the Swedes to shiver in their naked North country.

Then they moved their plows and their saws down the river and started over again.

They cut off enough timber to cover England, France and Germany,

They wore out enough farm land to cover all Italy.

3. Flood Control.

1913-1916-1923-1936-1937- floods.

For you can't wall out and dam up two-thirds of the water in the country.

They built dams but the dams filled in;

They built a thousand mile dyke but it didn't hold;

So they built it higher.

They played with a continent for fifty years. Then we sent the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the CCC, the Red Cross and the Health Service to keep the water in its banks.

Yet we have neither saved the good earth nor controlled the Father of Waters. For control means:

Control from Denver to Helena,

From Itasca to Paducah,

From Pittsburgh to Cairo -

Control of the wheat, the corn and the cotton land;

Control enough to put back a thousand forests;

Control enough to put the river together again before it is too late. . .

Before it has picked up the heart of a continent and shoved it into the Gulf of Mexico. - - - - - Editorial Taken from McCall's Magazine.

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